

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, and 14, and canceled Claim 8. Claims 1-7 and 9-15 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, and 12 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 9 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has removed the indefinite terms from these claims as well as from Claims 1 and 2. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, meet the specific requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by DeLuca. The indications by the Examiner that Claims 8, 10, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims and that Claims 1-6 were allowable over the prior art of record are noted with appreciation.

Applicant has amended independent Claim 7 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 8. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, independent Claims 1, 7, and 12 and their corresponding dependent claims are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Application No. 10/660,672
Art Unit 3682

Docket No. 22838.00
Confirmation No. 7877

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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RCL:DHT/ckf .